REVIEWED BY STATE A/GLO/MR
REVIEWED BY F Schmelzer DATE 7/2/85
EXT. DATE

FILE

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING - January 6, 1978

25

F-15's FOR SAUDI ARABIA

Q. Does the Administration favor the F-15 for Saudi Arabia over other aircraft?

A. --As we have noted, in the Administration's view, Saudi Arabia has a legitimate need for an advanced fighter aircraft. Also, as we have said, the Saudis have indicated a clear and firm choice of the F-15 as their preference.

-- We have no other details to provide.

Q. What is the purpose of the informal discussions we have had with Congress on this matter?

A. --After Crown Prince Fahd's talks with the President last May 25, the White House said that the Administration would consider this question of advanced fighter aircraft for Saudi Arabia in close consultation with Congress.

--The informal discussions we have had with several members of Congress are a preliminary part of that process.

--The Administration will not go forward without proper consultations with the Congress at the appropriate time.

Clearances: NEA - Mr. Sober
NEA/ARP - Mr. Twinam
T - Mr. Marsh

NEA/P:REUngeland/GFSherman:dp
x 20313 ~~330~~ 4:30